Chapter III

Mari Gas Company Limited. 1984-2012

Fauji Foundation traces its roots to post World War II, a fund known as Post War Services Reconstruction Fund (PWSRF) was established by the British to help over a million servicemen of the British Indian Army who took part in the war; after 1947, Pakistan's share was transferred to the new dominion. In 1954, the Government of Pakistan transferred almost quarter of a million US $ to the Pakistan Army for the benefits of retired servicemen. The Pakistan Army wisely instead of disbursing the amount among the servicemen, not only first established a textile mill but later also established a fifty bed tuberculosis hospital at Rawalpindi. Fauji Foundation established the Fauji Fertilizer Company in 1978 and in 1982 inaugurated one of the largest fertilizer plant in Pakistan at Goth Machi, not far from Daharki.[1] Thus when in 1983, ESSO decided to sell off its majority shares (51%) in Mari Gas Field, (the remaining shares 49% were owned by the Government of Pakistan) Fauji Foundation Pakistan saw it as a golden opportunity to facilitate its newly inaugurated fertilizer plant; decided to purchase shares of ESSO. ' *It was natural that we should have our own gas field for our fertilizer plants, thus when ESSO put forward the idea of selling its shares, I saw it as a god gifted opportunity and convinced my colleagues in the Fauji Foundation and also in the government that we must have these gas fields'.* [2]

There was much deliberation on the nomenclature of the newly raised gas company. Traditionally gas companies at that time were known more by acronyms rather than by name, yet it were the gas fields which caught the public imagination, Sui is one such example. Fauji Foundation also followed the same pattern and named its new company after its gas field; **Mari**. On 4 December 1984, **Mari Gas Company Limited** was formed as an unlisted public company to take over the assets, liabilities and operational control of the PSPP (Pakistan-Stanvac Petroleum Project). In the newly formed company, Fauji Foundation had 40% shares, Oil and Gas Development Corporation 20% and Government of Pakistan had the remaining shares. Fauji Foundation had the right to appoint the managing directors. At that time Mari Gas Company had twenty-one gas producing wells, with an output of 200 MMSCF of gas daily; having operating assets worth 140 million Rupees.

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1 https://www.fauji.org.pk/fauji/about-us/aboutus-overview

2 Narrated by major General Rao Farman Ali retired during his visit to Mari Gas Company head office at Islamabad on 15th September 1996.

Mari Gas Company Limited (MGCL)

Major General Mahmood Aslam Hayat (retired) was appointed as the very first managing director of Mari Gas Company, he remained in chair for the next seven years (December 1985-February 1992); A man of principles and simple taste, there could not have been a better choice of a person for this coveted position than him. He was commissioned in 19 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment in 1951 and with the passage of time commanded anti-aircraft command and also performed the duties of deputy martial law administrator in Sindh. A larger than life figure in every sense, fond of cricket which runs in his family along with soldiery. His personality and above all his integrity won the hearts and minds of all. It is worth mentioning that present Chairman Joint Chief of Staff, General Zubair Mahmood Hayat, is his son.

Transition from ESSO to Mari was smooth, there were no drastic changes in the working environment of the company, and the aim of the newly raised company was still the same i.e. to produce natural gas. Mari Gas Field is spread over an area of 943 square kilometres; initial estimates of gas in the field were in the range of 9.7 trillion cubic feet. Phase IV of Mari Gas field development was initiated in October 1985, during which twenty-seven development wells along with three step out wells were drilled, the project was completed in March 1986. The main beneficiary of this expansion was the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) which had commissioned a power plant at Guddu, which was to be provided with 100 MMSCFD of gas by Mari Gas Company. At that time Habib Rahi was the only reservoir from which gas was being produced. Reservoir studies of Habib Rahi were carried out in 1967, 1982 and 1983 by the Core Labs (USA), these studies are extremely important because they assess the availability, quantity and commercial value of the gas in the reservoir. A Gas reservoir is a naturally occurring storage area, characteristically a folded rock formation such as an anticline, that traps and holds natural gas. The reservoir rock must be permeable and porous to contain gas, and it has to be capped by impervious rock in order to form an effective seal that prevents the gas from escaping upward or laterally. In 1988 another reservoir study was again carried out by the MGCL, it was done by Peterism a US based company.

Mari Gas Company housed its main headquarters in Islamabad (36 Nazimuddin Road, Sector F7/1), a regional office in Karachi (G 9/2, Block 9 Kehkashan Clifton) with its field office at Daharki. Muneer Memon was among the very first employees to be hired by the Mari Gas Company; he appeared for an interview on 5th December 1984. Muneer was a geologist by profession and belonged to interior Sindh, '*I was interviewed at Karachi by a panel, as I got up to leave the interview, the managing director Major General(retired) Hayat along with Major General Rao Farman who was the minister of production and also managing director of Fauji Foundation entered the room, they had few words with me and when they came to know that I am a Sindhi, General Farman immediately appointed me as administration officer at Daharki, despite all my protests*.'

Apart from Mr Munir Memon; Mr Mukhtar Aslam Sheikh joined Mari in the

administration department, Mr Khalid Jamil and Mr Shaukat Ali joined the company as accountants, Mr Mohib ur Rab and Mr Ashiq Chaudhry joined the production department. Among the drivers Mr Muhammad Maskeen and Mr Khawaja, Mr Yaqoob Bhutto along with Mr Javed Aslam Shah as clerk and helper were among the initial inductees of Mari Gas Company Limited.[3] This was due to Mari's management's desire to hire educated locals amongst its management cadre.

Inspite of the development in Daharki the overall means of communication were slow. The standard pattern of travelling from Karachi to Mari Gas Field was either by train or road, the strenuous journey consumed almost twelve-fourteen hours. Air travel between Karachi and Sukkur was restricted to one daily flight and there were no direct flights between Islamabad and Sukkur. The law and order situation in interior Sindh at that time was unpredictable; buses, cars and even trains were subject to dacoities and robbers, thus travelling from Karachi to Daharki was nothing less than a nightmare. During this time, elections were held in the country; the system underwent a political transition, a new political government came to power and brought about some much needed changes in the petroleum industry.

In 1989, Government of Pakistan introduced Block bidding system, 43 Blocks were offered, total area under concession was about 1,50,000 square kilometres.[4] Mari did not bid for any block, although there were strong arguments within Mari to bid. One major factor for not taking part in the bidding was the mind-set to focus entirely on the existing field rather than any expansion. Later substantial reserves of natural gas were discovered at Qadirpur field not far from Mari gas field by OGDCL Under the petroleum policy of 1991, almost all items required for oil and gas exploration including rigs, seismic equipment, logging trucks, snubbing units were declared duty free.

Under the 1993 Petroleum policy, the country was divided into three zones, Zone I comprised of Balochistan and KPK and was termed as high cost and high risk, Zone II depicts Potohar and termed as high cost and medium risk whereas Zone III encompassing the lower Indus Basin was recognised as low cost and low risk. Furthermore the licence for exploration now encompass 7500 square kilometres and leased for three years.[5] It is a matter of interest to note that between 1866-1992, a total of 301 Exploratory Wells were drilled in the area comprising Pakistan, 290 wells were onshore and 11 offshore. By the end of June 1992, the total reserves of natural gas in Pakistan were 31.157 trillion cubic feet. Pakistan was producing 65000 barrels of oil and 1.5 billion cubic feet gas daily, whereas it was importing 64 million barrels of oil; costing 1.8 billion US$ annually.[6]

In 1992, Lieutenant General Hamid Niaz (retired) was appointed as the new managing director; moreover the tenure of managing director was set to three years. Appointment of a

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3 In 1999, all these persons were awarded with fifteen years service awards.

4 Iqbal Kadri *Petroleum Geology of Pakistan*, Karachi, 1994. pp,10-18.

5 Iqbal Kadri *Petroleum Geology of Pakistan*, pp-367.

6 Petroleum Policy 1991, Ministry of Petroleum.

lieutenant general (retired) highlights the confidence of the Fauji Foundation and the Government of Pakistan in ~~the~~ Mari Gas Company Limited. He took over as the chief executive at a juncture where the Mari had already undertaken the major development project. Speaking of his personality, he is remembered for his open door policy, easy accessibility and above all his remarkable patience as a listener.[7]

The facilities and production capacity of Mari Gas Field had been gradually and systematically enhanced under four development projects from 1965-1985. In 1992, the Fifth Development Phase of Mari Gas Field was undertaken to supply gas for the expansion projects of Fauji Fertilizer and Engro Chemical Pakistan Limited. The expansion phase comprised of drilling thirteen Development and four Step-out Wells, along with the construction of a Pipeline Gathering System including a Central Manifold No.2 located at a distance of 800 meters from existing Central Manifold. The gas gathering system was thus enhanced from 120 kilometres to 165 kilometres. Financing of the expansion project was through a loan of 19.5 million US$.

Remarkable flexibility is created between two manifolds by inter connecting inlet and outlet headers at both manifolds through two sixteen inch diameter pipelines. This created an ideal facility to switch processed or unprocessed gas from one central manifold to the other central manifold to meet any emergency. The gas from one segment can very easily be switched from header designated for fertilizer to that for WAPDA, facilitating the system to distribute the wells according to their gas composition requirement. Later a comprehensive program was launched to upgrade and harmonize the outlook of these two manifolds. The objective was achieved by hauling of about half a million cubic feet of earth and laying three inches downgraded ballast stone.

Ten development wells were drilled using a hired rig in record time of 75 days. These wells were then connected to the gathering system. As a result, the field capacity was increased from 300 MMSCFD to 400 MMSCFD. The drilling program was designed by the MGCL staff, and the design of the gas gathering system was done by Nova Corporation. The supervision of both the drilling and the construction of gas gathering system was carried out by MGCL personnel, they also installed the Cathodic Protection System of the gas pipelines independently. Better planning and closer supervision of the drilling contractor improved per well drilling time of 7.5 days compared with what was the historical average in the field of about 14 days. The cumulative gas produced during the year 1994, from 59 producing wells was 140,017.481 Million Standard Cubic Feet (MMSCF). The daily average gas production for 1994 was 384 MMSCF per day as compared to 355 MMSCF per day in 1993. Engro, Pak-Saudi and Fauji Fertilizers were the main customers of Mari, receiving a committed 300 MSCF daily with WAPDA power plant at Guddu getting the remaining 100 MSCF. [8]

Mr S.M. Salahuddin[9] who had joined Mari in 1990 as planning manager and elevated to

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7 Mari News, Volume 1, issue 1, 1993.

8 Mari News, Volume 1, issue 1, 1993.

9 Mr S.M. Salahuddin, did his Bachelor of Engineering from University of Oklahoma in 1965

as technical manager in 1993 was assigned the overall responsibility to implement the Phase-V. Mr Muhammad Ali Mughul who had joined Mari in 1985 as senior petroleum engineer was the production superintendent and not only he supervised the Phase IV, but he was the team leader for the Phase-V. Another name worth mentioning is Mr S.M.Jamshed Iqbal who had ~~had~~ joined Mari in 1979, he headed the project development department, 'he has been an anchor person during planning, designing and execution stages of major development phases Phase IV and Phase V'.[10] The development of Mari Gas Field will remain incomplete without highlighting the efforts of Muhammad Ajmal Abbasi, a petroleum engineer who joined Mari in 1980 and was a key figure during the Phase III, IV and V development; he led the reservoir department. Fateh Muhamad Buriro who had been with the Mari since 1982 as operator of heavy equipment was regarded as a model worker during the Phase III, IV and V[11];

First ten years of Mari Gas Company. Mari had increased the number of producing wells from 21 to 59. Its total operating assets increased from 140 million Rupees to 702 million Rupees.

From June 16, 1994 onwards, the shares of Mari Gas Company Limited were being listed and traded on the Karachi Stock Exchange. Under the Privatization Policy of the Government of Pakistan, half of the shares held by the Government were divested and were offered to the general public and the employees of Mari. A temporary 'Shares Department' was established in June 1994 under Company Secretary Mr J.V. Divencha alongwith Mr Muhammad Sadiq, Mr Chiragh Zameen and Mr Rizwan Ali. They did a mammoth task of verifying 27,000 transfer deeds, along with registration of transfer numbers in excess of 784,000 shares. The opening price quoted for 4.2 million government shares sold at Rupees 25.15 rupees was rupees 48 and the volume transacted on very first day was 87,000 shares.

Exploring Deeper –Goru B

The deep horizon in Mari Gas Field was never explored, however the discovery of gas at deeper horizon in 1987 by Eni of Italy in 1989 at Kadonwari south of Khairpur followed by OMV of Austria at Miano in 1993 both discoveries in Cretaceous sands acted as catalyst for Mari to explore deeper. Dynamite Seismic Survey of 200 kilometres was conducted in 1995 which confirmed presence of hydrocarbon. Based upon the seismic survey results a drillable structure in the lower Goru sands was identified, the initial assessment was that, there is a Western and Eastern structure at the Cretaceous sands each carrying a conservative reserves of around half trillion cubic feet of gas.

On the 1st of January 1997, Mari was about to reach another landmark by spudding in the deep well. The spirits and sentiments of the people were high on this perfect winter morning. The caravan of jeeps, led by Lieutenant General Ghulam Muhammad Malik (Retired), Managing Director, Mr. Abdul Rehman, General Manager and Mr. Muhammad Ali

10 Mari News, January-March 1994.

11 Mari News, January –March 1994

Mughal, Mari Field Manager, left the Daharki housing colony at about 9:00 a.m. They were closely followed by Mr. Moiz Ahmed, Finance Manager, Mr. Muhammad Ajmal Abbasi, Reservoir Manager, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, Project Development Manager, Mr. Tariq Z. Kitchlew, Corrosion Specialist, Lieutenant Colonel Abdul Waheed (retired), Manager Employees Relations, Colonel Amjad Javed (retired), Chief Coordinator and Mr. Khurram Khan, Company Secretary. The destination, about 20 Kilometres from Daharki colony and 11 kilometres South West of central manifold, was marked as Mari Deep -1 Well location. The Managing Director and his associates were warmly welcomed by the confident Drilling Superintendent Mr. Ghafoor Kausar and the energetic duty engineers including Mr. Ashiq Ali Chaudhary, Mr. Javed Iqbal Jadoon, and Mr. Ayub Khan. After the opening ceremony and collective praying for successful completion of the latest venture, the sacrificial goats were slaughtered at the foot of the rig.

The entire team was then escorted up to the derrick floor where they were greeted by the French Crew. Managing Director pulled the drilling brake, the rotary table moved with a thunderous jerk and the whole drilling operation suddenly came to life. This may have been a routine exercise for the old hands, but the deafening noise and knee rattling vibrations at the derrick floor was a rather scary experience for the first timers.

Following the spudding of the well the excitement subsided for a while as the routine operations of daily drilling, logging and testing came into effect. Steadfastly the drilling continued to the prognosed depth of 13500 feet. Following the completion of the final drilling and logging operations a few zones in the Chiltan and one in Sui Main Limestone were selected for drill stem testing.

Mari Deep Well No.1 was completed on 12 July 1997, with a total depth of 13,505 feet. Encouraged by the results of the well, Mari decided to drill a second deep well nine Kilometres north east of the first deep well. The well was spud on 28th October 1997 with a planned depth of 12,800 feet and was completed in February 1998. Under the appraisal programme, six additional deep wells were drilled; four of these deep wells turned out to be gas producers and other two wells went dry. M/s Petresim of USA carried out detail reservoir study and revealed gas reserves of 1.861 TCF. Owing to the quality of gas, the gas from deep wells was dedicated for power sector

With the discovery of gas in the deeper horizon. Mari also finalized the arrangements to conduct a 440 line kilometre 2D seismic survey as a prelude to the development of Goru B reservoir.[12]

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12 https://www.dawn.com/news/84705 Dawn Newspaper, March 02,2003. Also see https://propakistani.pk/2017/11/15/mari-petroleum-makes-significant-gas-discovery-sindh/ Business Recorder Karachi, https://fp.brecorder.com/2011/06/201106141201602/ http://www.pakistaneconomist.com/issue2003/issue13/etc6.php

Mari's Decade of Exploration & Discovery.2000-12

New millennium was the biggest event of the century; everyone felt a new vigour and sense of achievement to be part of this passing phase of history. Collectively the rise and progress of human civilisation is a matter of pride, it is a unanimous conclusion that this rise is more pronounce in the last two centuries and is synonymous with the exploration of hydrocarbons. The new millennium brought new hope and energy for the Mari and its 316 employees, eleven more than the previous year. With the passage of time Mari had become more of a family for most of them, life and job both were rewarding and satisfying. MPCL had successfully displayed to its shareholders and stakeholders that it is one of the most reliable and profitable E&P company in Pakistan. It had ventured successfully deep beyond Habib Rahi formation into Goru-B to retain the trust of the nation in ensuring continuous supply of natural gas for fertilizer and power plants. At the dawn of new millennium Mari was eager to go deeper and to explore new frontiers.

The four hundred kilometres seismic survey initiated in 1999, in relation with the Goru-B discovery, indicated some additional extension of the reservoir at the South-East end beyond the boundary of the D&P Lease area. The hypothesis was exciting, thus first a Reconnaissance Permit was obtained from the government. The reconnaissance validated the survey, thus Mari applied for and was granted additional 246 square kilometres of land to its already held 969.27 square kilometres of land. This survey indicated some additional extension of the reservoir at the South-East end beyond the boundary of the D&P Lease area. Water Bath Line heater,[13] a technology, was first time introduced installed and commissioned by MGCL at their Deep Well facilities. Six deep appraisal wells were drilled, four of the six wells drilled were gas producers.

In 2001, which is now regarded as a milestone year in Mari's history, Government of Pakistan allowed exploration expenditure of up to 20 Million US$ per year; Mari therefore transitioned truly into an exploration and production company (E&P). Thus Mari in 2001 raised an exploration department, with five geologists and three geophysicists. As a strategy, the explorers decided to work on a regional scale, thus regional geological and geophysical data was purchased and integrated.

Till 2005, fourteen applications for operatorship, 23 areas to farm-in as a joint venture partnership and 26 blocks for farm-in were reviewed. By the end of 2005, Mari had ventured outside the Mari Development and Production Lease area for the first time in its history when it acquired operator exploratory license of Karak and Noor Blocks. It also acquired 60% in Ziarat and 35 % share in Bolan exploratory licenses; as operator and partner. Mari had also entered as joint venture partner(J.V.Partner) in nine other exploratory licenses including Dadhar, Nawabshah, Hala, Zamurdan, Kohlu, Kalchas, Kot Sarang , Pasni and Makran; last two being offshore licenses.[14]

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13 These line heaters designed to boost-up temperature of gas up to 140° F at different gas flow rates

14 Mari Gas Company Limited(MGCL) *Annual Reports for the Year 2004, 2005, 2006*.

Expansion

An important and much needed requisite for expansion was the rehabilitation of the gas pipelines. By 2001, these pipes had completed 35 years of service; more than anything else it was a matter of safety of the pipelines. A, C-scan survey was conducted to ascertain the condition of wrapping and coating, based upon this the first phase of the rehabilitation of pipelines was initiated in July 2001. By the end of 2004, over ninety thousand feet of pipeline was rehabilitated. Pigging was required on certain wells flow lines due to high water production, pig launching and receiving facility was constructed at well No.11.[15]The whole operation was designed, fabricated and commissioned through in-house expertise; existing material in Pipri warehouse was used and no new material was procured. In the same breath, the warehouse at Pipri was also upgraded.[16]

Coinciding with the new millennium and newly approved financial freedom for exploration, Mari initiated its **Phase VI** development for Habib Rahi Reservoir in order to enhance its production from 459 to 495 MMSCF; seventeen wells had to be dug apart from hooking two deep wells .[17] An expansion programme is much debated and thoroughly planned down to the minutest detail, just to highlight this point, no less than 25,000 gallons of fresh water is required daily for the drilling of one well. Thus there are pre–spud preparations which includes topographical survey, acquisition and demarcation of land, preparation of location which in this phase included preparation of over 50 kilometres of track amidst sand dunes for heavy traffic including Mari Rig. Crew of Mari Rig deserves applause for their untiring, focused, professional and dedication; they rewrote the history and set new record for speedy drilling. Rig was in fact zigzagged through cultivated land, sand dunes and water logged area; they were able to complete move in unprecedented 10-12 hours. Drilling requires a constant and heavy flow of spares and related material, 'in a single day eighty trailers of tubular were unloaded'. Drilling Phase started with drilling at Well No.90, ' after the first fast in, the rig and its crew never looked back'[18] . Well No.86 was the last well to be drilled.

Laying of gathering system and fabrication of well site facilities were the culminating act of this expansion project. No less than 1, 46,000 feet of pipe lines ranging in diameter from six to sixteen inches were laid; later they all were hydrostatically tested. The Achilles Heel of the expansion regime in the end was the high percentage of carbon dioxide in these eighteen wells; it was higher than the permissible 'MGCL could not have attained the maximum production capacity owing to the high percentage'.[19] This Gordon Knot was broken by Mari's

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15 Well No.12,48 and 73

16 Mari News, Volume No.1 Issue No.1 June-December 2004.

17 Mari Deep 10 and 11 in Habib Rahi Reservoir had to hooked up with the gathering system

18 Ashiq Choudhry, Captain (retired) Riffat Hussain *Phase VI Development Project* Mari News, June 2004.

19 Permissible limit is 10 %

own expertise, equipment and human resource. Modification was carried in gathering network thus shifting high carbon dioxide content gas after taking into consideration the behaviour of each well from Manifold No.1 to No.2 and vice versa. *'The job accomplished , not only created enormous operational flexibility but also enabled us to implement the production plan in its true spirit*.'[20]

Discovery

Exploration is mixed bag of fortune and misfortunes, success and failure, hope and despair, joy and sorrow; and Mari is no exception. The Pasni X-2 exploration well was spud in February 2005. By September same year, drilling having encountered various unexpected problems and bad sea weather conditions managed to reach the depth of 4,000 meters but the target sandstone reservoir was not present. Since the well proved unsuccessful, it was thus plugged and abandoned. Zarghun on the other end is a success story, Mari was able to discover not only gas but also oil for the first time

In 2005, Mari made another gas discovery in its lease area in Sui and Pirkoh Limestone formations. The well was spudded on February 16, 2005 and drilled down to 1,268 meters within a record period of 16 days. Gas discovery in Pirkoh Limestone was one of the shallowest and first ever discovery in this formation. Extended well testing was conducted for the duration of forty days and average production of well was six MMSCFD from Sui Main Limestone and 2.5 MMSCFD from Pirkoh Limestone. [21]

Drilling, completion and hook up of three Pirkoh Wells and three prospects at Pirkoh Limestone reservoir were identified. After necessary planning and arrangement of services, drilling of well MG(P)-1, MP-1 and MPX-1 commenced on May 12, 2013 and successfully completed on July 02, 2013 by using Mari's own Skytop Brewster Rig and crew. Successful Drill Stems Test (DST) by perforating Pirkoh Limestone was carried out, which resulted in gas flow from all the three wells. These wells were hooked up with existing gas gathering network at Mari D&P. The cumulative production from the said discoveries to national grid system was approximately 6 MMSCFD. After strenuous efforts, Mari was able to hook up well # 85 with the gas gathering network after twenty seven years. The well was drilled in 1986 but the gas could not be tapped due to certain unavoidable circumstances. The well later contributed 9 MMSCF gas per day.

Sui Main Limestone (SML)

Previously, there was a perception that SML reservoir quality deteriorates from Qadirpur Gas Field to Mari D&P Lease area. This perception was changed when well data within and around Mari D&P Lease area were reviewed. As a result of the comprehensive study, a

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20 Ashiq Choudhry, Ayub Khan *Mari News.* December 2004.

21 https://innspub.net/jbes/sedimentology-pir-koh-formation-exposed-dholi-rakhi-gaj-central-sulaiman-range-pakistan/

prospective area was identified at SML and PKL levels in the western part of the Mari D&P Lease based on the vintage seismic data interpretation. All the wells over the identified prospective area were drilled down to Habib Rahi Limestone at shallower level except Mari Deep Well # 6. Mari SML Well -1 was spudded on February 16, 2005 and reached total depth of 1,268 meters in Ranikot Formation of Paleocene age within a short span of eighteen days. Considering the encouraging log results, three zones that are Pirkoh, Sui Upper and Sui Main Limestones were tested, which flowed gas at a cumulative rate of around 6 MMSCF per day. This significant discovery supplements Mari's existing producible reserves in Habib Rahi Limestone and the proven reserves of Lower Goru "B" Sands.

All these efforts and studies finally bore fruit when on 21st June 2006 , Government of Pakistan awarded the Petroleum Exploration Licenses for Sujawal , Hanna and Harnai blocks to Mari as operator with full working interest; Mari planned to invest approximately US $ 208 million in the next five years. Purchase of Rig from China in 2007 was the next major step and it was not the last rig to be purchased as another one, even more powerful was added to the inventory soon.

Unfortunately, mid of new decade was also the end of the classic era of exploration in Pakistan. The aftermath of the US War on Terror emerged in Pakistan as a new form of terrorism and armed radicalism. In Baluchistan, it started at the end of 2004 in the Gwadar area and soon spread into Bugti and Marri tribal territory which is heart of natural gas in Pakistan. In KPK, it had practically ceased the exploration of oil and gas. Punjab and Sindh remained relatively calm but there was the ever present fear of installations and teams being targeted by terrorists. Mari Gas Company in its last year before it transitioned into Mari Petroleum Company Limited had become the third largest among the twenty five odd explorations and production (E&P) companies operating in Pakistan.